

CHP investigates cases of severe paediatric influenza A infection and outbreaks of influenza A and influenza-like illness at kindergartens

The Centre for Health Protection (CHP) of the Department of Health is today (January 16) investigating two cases of severe paediatric influenza A infection, four influenza A outbreaks at kindergartens in Sham Shui Po, Kowloon Tong, Hung Hom and Wan Chai respectively, as well as an influenza-like illness outbreak at a kindergarten in Tsing Yi.

The first case of severe paediatric influenza A infection involves a 11-month-old girl with underlying illness. She has presented with fever, cough and shortness of breath since January 14 and was admitted to Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH) on the same day. She was transferred to PWH's paediatric intensive care unit for further management yesterday (January 15). She is now in a critical condition. Her nasopharyngeal aspirate tested positive for influenza A virus upon laboratory testing. The clinical diagnosis was influenza A infection complicated with severe pneumonia.

Initial enquiries revealed that the patient had not received seasonal influenza vaccination for the current season and had no travel history during the incubation period. Her elder brother with recent upper respiratory symptoms earlier sought medical attention without admission and has been in a stable condition. Her other home contacts have remained asymptomatic so far.

The second case involves a 11-month-old boy with good past health, who has presented with fever, cough, runny nose and malaise since January 9. He developed head and limbs twitching on January 10 and was admitted to Queen Mary Hospital (QMH) on the same day. He is now in a stable condition. His nasopharyngeal swab tested positive for influenza A virus upon laboratory testing. The clinical diagnosis was influenza A infection complicated with encephalopathy.

Initial enquiries revealed that the patient had not received seasonal influenza vaccination for the current season and had no travel history during the incubation period. His father with recent upper respiratory symptoms earlier sought medical attention. His grandmother was admitted to QMH for influenza A and had already discharged after management, while his grandfather was admitted to the same hospital for other medical condition. All three are in a stable condition. Other home contact has remained asymptomatic so far.

Regarding outbreaks at kindergartens, the outbreak at the kindergarten in Sham Shui Po affected eight boys and 12 girls, aged 3 to 5, who have

developed fever, cough, sore throat and runny nose since January 4. All of them sought medical attention. Among them, three students required hospitalisation and two were discharged following treatment. All patients have been in a stable condition. The respiratory specimens of three students tested positive for influenza A virus upon laboratory testing.

For the outbreak at the kindergarten in Kowloon Tong, it involves 11 boys and 10 girls, aged 3 to 6, who have developed similar symptoms since January 8. All of them sought medical attention. One student required hospitalisation and was discharged following treatment. All patients are in a stable condition. The respiratory specimens of three affected students tested positive for influenza A virus upon laboratory testing.

For the outbreak at the kindergarten in Hung Hom, it involves 11 boys and 12 girls, aged 2 to 3, who have developed similar symptoms since January 4. All of them sought medical attention. One student required hospitalisation and was discharged following treatment. All patients are in a stable condition. The respiratory specimens of two affected students tested positive for influenza A virus upon laboratory testing.

For the outbreak at the kindergarten in Wan Chai, it involves 11 boys and 10 girls, aged 3 to 6, who have developed fever, cough and sore throat since January 4. Twenty of them sought medical attention. Among them, one student required hospitalisation and was discharged following treatment. All patients are in a stable condition. The respiratory specimens of five affected students tested positive for influenza A virus upon laboratory testing.

For the outbreak of influenza-like illness at a kindergarten in Tsing Yi, it involves 24 students including 10 boys and 14 girls, all aged 4, as well as a female staff member. They have developed fever, cough and sore throat since January 14. Twenty-three of them sought medical attention. Two of the affected students required hospitalisation and one was discharged following treatment. All patients are in a stable condition.

Officers of the CHP have conducted site visits to the five schools and advised the schools to adopt infection control measures against respiratory infections. The schools have been put under medical surveillance.

A spokesman for the CHP said, "To prevent outbreaks of influenza and other respiratory infections, it is of prime importance that children with fever, regardless of the presence of respiratory symptoms, should not be allowed to attend school. They should seek medical advice and avoid school till 48 hours after the fever has subsided. Schools should also measure and record students' body temperature properly."

Schools are reminded to follow the [Guidelines on Prevention of Communicable Diseases](#) on preventive and control measures as well as management of outbreaks, which should be reported to the CHP for prompt follow-up.

"Particularly, children, people aged 50 to 64 years, the elderly and

those with underlying illnesses who have not yet received influenza vaccination this season are urged to get vaccinated as early as possible to prevent seasonal influenza as it takes about two weeks for antibodies to develop in the body after vaccination. They should promptly seek medical advice if influenza-like symptoms develop so that appropriate treatment can be initiated as early as possible to prevent potential complications. Parents and carers are reminded to render assistance in prevention, care and control for vulnerable people," the spokesman added.

Besides receiving seasonal influenza vaccination as early as possible for personal protection, the public should maintain good personal and environmental hygiene for protection against influenza and other respiratory illnesses. For more information, please visit the CHP's [influenza page](#) and weekly [Flu Express](#).

HKMA and Paris EUROPLACE co-host financial seminar (with photos)

The following is issued on behalf of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority:

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) and Paris EUROPLACE co-hosted the Hong Kong-Paris Financial Seminar in Hong Kong today (January 16).

The Seminar provided a platform for financial market participants in Hong Kong and Paris to exchange views on the latest trends and developments and to explore further financial collaboration between the two financial centres. It was opened by the Deputy Chief Executive of the HKMA, Mr Eddie Yue, and the First Deputy Governor, Banque de France, Mr Denis Beau, followed by two panel discussions comprising experts from the Hong Kong and French financial and fintech sectors.

The first panel, chaired by the Executive Director (External) of the HKMA, Mr Vincent Lee, discussed the role of Hong Kong as the gateway to China and opportunities, including those in RMB internationalisation, continued opening-up of China's financial and capital markets, as well as the Greater Bay Area. Chaired by the Chief Executive Officer of Paris EUROPLACE, Mr Arnaud de Bresson, the second panel focused on the development of new finance, including green finance, fintech and digital finance, in both Hong Kong and Paris and collaboration opportunities in these areas.

Mr Yue said, "Today's seminar provides a useful platform for Hong Kong and French financial institutions to step up exchange and collaboration. Hong Kong and Paris are two financial centres sharing many complementary strengths. Amid growing opportunities from the opening-up of Mainland China and new finance, there is much room for market participants from these two

places to share experiences and collaborate."

Over 120 representatives from banks, asset management companies, corporates and other financial institutions, as well as fintech companies in both Hong Kong and France attended the Seminar.



[Latest test results of opening-up investigation in second stage of holistic assessment strategy for Hung Hom Station Extension under Shatin to Central Link Project](#)

The latest test results of the opening-up investigation in the second stage of the holistic assessment strategy for the Hung Hom Station Extension under the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) project (as at January 16) are now available at the Highways Department's website for the SCL project (www.hyd.gov.hk/en/road_and_railway/railway_projects/scl/index.html) for reference by the public.

Cluster of Influenza A cases in Kowloon Central Cluster

The following is issued on behalf of the Hospital Authority:

The spokesperson for Kowloon Central Cluster made the following announcement today (January 16):

Three patients (aged 27 to 59) in a male Psychiatric ward in Kowloon Hospital presented with upper respiratory tract infection symptoms since January 13. Clinical tests were arranged and the test results were positive for Influenza A. The patients concerned are being treated under isolation with stable condition.

Admission and visiting have been suspended in the ward concerned. Infection control measures have already been stepped up according to established guidelines. All other patients in the ward are under close surveillance.

In addition, three patients (two male and one female, aged 43 to 69) in a Medicine and Geriatrics ward in Kwong Wah Hospital presented with fever and respiratory symptoms since January 8. Clinical tests were arranged and the test results were positive for Influenza A. The patients concerned are being treated under isolation. Two patients are in stable condition, while the other patient is in critical condition due to underlying illness.

Infection control measures have already been stepped up according to established guidelines. All other patients in the ward are under close surveillance.

The above cases have been reported to the Hospital Authority Head Office and the Centre for Health Protection for necessary follow-up.

Secretary for Justice to visit Beijing

The Secretary for Justice, Ms Teresa Cheng, SC, will leave for Beijing tomorrow afternoon (January 17).

Ms Cheng will sign the Arrangement on Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters between the Courts of the Mainland and of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region with the

Supreme People's Court in the morning on January 18. She will also call on the Ministry of Justice as well as the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council.

Ms Cheng will return to Hong Kong on January 19.